

## RANKING OF MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 282) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 282

*Resolved*, That Mr. Lynch of Massachusetts shall rank after Mr. Shows of Mississippi on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 283) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 283

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Armed Services: Mr. Jeff Miller of Florida.  
Veterans Affairs: Mr. Jeff Miller of Florida.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001, TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, November 9, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business

in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO UNITED STATES

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 264) expressing the sense of Congress to welcome the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the occasion of his visit to the United States, and to affirm that India is a valued friend and partner and an important ally in the campaign against international terrorism, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from New York, so that he may explain the reasons for moving this resolution immediately to the floor.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking minority member on the Committee on International Relations, for crafting H. Con. Res. 264, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress to welcome the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the occasion of his visit to our Nation, and to affirm that India is a valued friend and partner and an important ally in the campaign against international terrorism.

India and the United States share a common destiny. Our people thrive on democracy, the rule of law and the right to freely worship God, and our governments understand that these rights and freedoms are essential for our civilizations to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, this past Monday in New Delhi, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and India's Minister of Defense, George Fernandes, met and agreed to expand and intensify our mutual cooperation in the war against international terrorism. We are delighted that India and the United States are moving closer to becoming allies in every sense of the word.

An alliance between our Nation and India could specifically be used to promote democratic governments in the region and to combat drugs and terrorism. And our Nation appreciates the immeasurable contributions to our society made by the more than 1 million Americans of Indian origin.

This past summer, Russian President Putin and Chinese President Jiang

Zemin gave each other a bear hug and signed a so-called "friendship treaty." We are now embarking on a similar friendship with India and Prime Minister Vajpayee.

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Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am delighted to speak in support of this resolution which welcomes Prime Minister Vajpayee of India to the United States and expresses the deep appreciation of the American people for the strong and immediate support India has provided us at the time of the events of September 11.

Many of our colleagues do not realize, Mr. Speaker, that India also lost over 200 of its own citizens in the dreadful attack on the World Trade Center. As a matter of fact, while this terrible terrorist act was a first for us, I think it is important for all of us to understand that some of our democratic friends and allies have been subjected to terrorist attacks for many years. Our democratic friend, India, and our democratic friend, the State of Israel, have been subjected to terrorism for over half a century. Following our tragic event on September 11, on October 7 terrorists attacked the Parliament House in Kashmir claiming the lives of scores of innocent Indian citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to realize that today we have the pleasure of welcoming to our Congress the Prime Minister of the largest democracy on the face of this planet. There are 1 billion people in India, Mr. Speaker. Many were doubtful years ago that a society, at that time quite poor, in many ways undeveloped, could maintain a political democracy. There was a lot of skepticism as to whether you could have a viable political democracy with 1 billion people of enormous ethnic variety and with hundreds of millions of those people living in abject poverty.

India has proven the pessimists wrong. India today is the fourth largest economy on the face of this planet, and it is the largest political democracy on this planet. Political elections unfold, governments change peacefully, as they do here in the United States.

A great deal has been made in recent times, since September 11, of our building a global coalition against international terrorism; and we all support the effort of the President, the Secretary of State and others to move along these lines. But I think it is important to realize that some Members of this coalition share our values. India is one of them.

Not all members of the coalition are built on the same set of democratic values that our society is built on and India's society is built on. For many, this coalition is just a marriage of convenience. With respect to India, it is a marriage based on shared and common values of pluralism, respect for minorities, freedom of religion, political privileges of voting, freedom of press,